

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 NSC-10 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9979

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0532

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 070302

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO NUMBERED AND  
LETTERED PARAGRAPHS REFTEL:

I. A. RELATIVE U. S. EFFORT TOWARD LIBYAN YOUTH  
SHOULD FOCUS ON FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WITH PERCENTAGE  
WEIGHT AS INDICATED:

YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS	TEN PERCENT
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YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS	TEN PERCENT
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YOUNG BUREAUCRATS	FORTY PERCENT
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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS	TWENTY PERCENT
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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN EDUCATION	TEN PERCENT
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UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERS	TEN PERCENT
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B. RATIONALE. YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS REPRESENT MOST POWERFUL ELEMENT IN LAR SOCIETY. COUNTRY ITSELF IS RULED BY MILITARY JUNTA WHOSE AVERAGE AGE LESS THAN THIRTY. ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN POLITICAL ORDER IN LAR MUST AT LEAST BE SUPPORTED BY MILITARY AND PROBABLY BE INITIATED BY THEM. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS SEGMENT OF POPULATION MOST INACCESSIBLE TO US. OVERTURES TO MILITARY OFFICERS BY FOREIGNERS ARE SIMPLY NOT PERMITTED. PRACTICALLY SAME RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO YOUNG "POLITICAL" LEADERS OF ASU, ETC. WE ASSIGN THESE CATEGORIES SLIGHT WEIGHT TO INDICATE REALISTICALLY LIMITS ON OUR ACTIONS AND YET AT SAME TIME TO INDICATE THAT ON RARE OCCASIONS IT APPROPRIATE WE WILL SEEK CONTACT. YOUNG BUREAUCRATS ARE ELEMENT OF LAR SOCIETY WITH WHICH WE HAVE SOMEWHAT MORE CONTACT. THOUGH THEIR INFLUENCE IS LIMITED, THEY CAN HELP OR HINDER IN DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS. YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, THOUGH THEMSELVES REPRESENTING RELATIVELY INEFFECTUAL ELEMENT OF POPULATION, ARE PEOPLE WE CAN ALSO TALK WITH OCCASIONALLY. THEY CAN, LIKE THE YOUNG BUREAUCRATS, INFLUENCE TO A LIMITED EXTENT LARGE DECISIONS INDIRECTLY THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS. LAR IS A SMALL COUNTRY IN WHICH MOST EDUCATED PEOPLE KNOW EACH OTHER. THOUGH LAR INCREASINGLY GUARDS ITS EDUCATIONAL PROCESSES FROM OUTSIDE INFLUENCES AND THOUGH CURRENT CULTURAL REVOLUTION WILL INTENSIFY THIS ISOLATING TENDENCY, RCC HAS INDICATED IT IS SENSITIVE TO WHAT ACADEMICANS SAY. LARGELY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PERSONS PROGRAMS WE SHOULD BE ABLE MAINTAIN SOME CONTACT WITH THESE YOUNG ACADEMIC LEADERS. WITH REGARD, FINALLY, TO UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERS, OUR SCOPE OF ACTION IS SEVERELY LIMITED BUT WE TRY AT LEAST TO HAVE INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THEM.

C. SHORT-TERM YOUTH IMPACT. YOUTH IN THIS COUNTRY, LIKE OTHER ELEMENTS OF POPULATION, ARE UNDER ALMOST TOTAL RCC CONTROL. SECOND, THERE APPEARS TO BE AN ALMOST INNATE PASSIVITY IN THE LIBYAN CHARACTER AND ONLY A MINORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AN EXCEPTION. IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GROUPS, PER SE, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF MILITARY

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OFFICERS, COULD HAVE MAJOR EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LAR OR ON U. S. INTERESTS IN THE NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS.

## II. OBJECTIVES

A. AND B. - PERCENTAGE AND RATIONALE

BECAUSE EMBASSY MUST OPERATE UNDER WATCHFUL EYE OF LARG SECURITY APPARATUS, ONLY REASONABLE OBJECTIVE RE YOUTH WE CAN ADVANCE IS TO DEVELOP SOME KIND OF CONTACT WITH AS MANY YOUNG EDUCATED LIBYANS AS POSSIBLE. TO THIS GOAL WE WOULD ASSIGN 100 PERCENT WEIGHT. THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY OUR STAFFING AND SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT PERMIT US TO TARGET IN NEATLY ON SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES.

III. PRESOURCES.

A. PERCENTAGE.

CU INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TRAVEL GRANTS - FIVE PERCENT; AMERICAN PROFESSORS ( STAG LECTURING)- FIVE PERCENT; OTHER - NINETY PERCENT. THERE ARE FEW IMPROVEMENTS WE COULD ADVOCATE TO ADD TO OUR ALREADY EXISTING RESOURCES. THE LARG HAS REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR IT DISCOURAGES GOVERNMENT- TO- GOVERNMENT CONTACTS WITH U. S. ON THE OTHER HAND, AFME AND INDIVIDUAL U. S. ACADEMICIANS HAVE DONE WELL IN LIBYA. THIS IS, OF COURSE, NO LAR PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. WE HAVE ASSIGNED NINETY PERCENT WEIGHT TO " OTHER" RESOURCES AND COMPREHEND UNDER THIS HEADING THE EFFORTS OF OUR FOURTEEN EMBASSY AMERICANS TO MEET AND INFLUENCE YOUNG LIBYANS IN THE COURSE OF NORMAL BUSINSS. SUCH OPPORTUNITIES ARE FEW.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION WITHOUT RESORTING TO PARADOX. IN ONE SENSE NO GROUP IN LIBYA IS IMPORTANT OUTSIDE OF THE RCC, BE IT YOUNG OR OLD. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VERY YOUTHFULNESS OF THE RCC GIVES LIBYA A CERTAIN ACCENT ON YOUTH. IF THERE ARE

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ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAR GOVERNMENT OR SOCIETY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THEY WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY AND, PROBABLY, AGAINST YOUTH. THIS IS BECAUSE THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE SOCIETY IS SO LOW, PARTICULARLY IF ONE EXCLUDES THE POLITIVALLY INERT ELEMENTS.

C. WE ARE UNABLE TO BREAK DOWN THE PERCENTAGE OF USG RESOURCES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND EARMARKED SPECIFICALLY TOWARD YOUTH. MISSION IS OPERATING WITH REDUCED STAFF AND MUST CONTACT WHOEVER IT CAN, REGARDLESS OF AGE, IN ORDER TO GET BASIC JOB DONE. THERE ARE NO USIA, AID OR DOD RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US. SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OTHER THAN THOSE

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